

Please rewrite the claims in the above-captioned application to read as follows:

4. (Amended) A hybrid oligonucleotide consisting of one or more deoxyribonucleotide POPS blocks and one or more regions of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleotides having internucleoside linkages selected from the group consisting of phosphodiester, phosphotriester, phosphorothioate and phosphoramidate linkages, wherein each of said POPS blocks is flanked by a region of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides.

- 5. The oligonucleotide according to claim 4, having from 12 to 50 nucleotides.
- 6. The oligonucleotide according to claim 5, having from 17 to 35 nucleotides.

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 are pending in the application. Claim 4 has been amended. Attached is a marked up copy of amended claim 4, indicating changes made. Claim 5 and 6 are unchanged from the Applicants' amendment filed on April 12, 2000.

Support for the amendment to claim 4 may be found at page 7, lines 3-7, and at page 8, 12-14. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by way of the foregoing amendment. The amendment raises no new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. The foregoing amendment places the claims in condition for allowance by addressing and overcoming the indefiniteness rejections under 35 U.C.C. §102(b). Enttry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

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No fees are believed to be due in connection with this preliminary amendment. However,

please charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

HALE AND DORR LLP

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March 27, 2001 60 State Street Boston, MA 02109 (617) 526-6000 (617) 526-5000 (fax) 4. (Amended) A hybrid oligonucleotide consisting of one or more deoxyribonucleotide POPS blocks [flanked by one or more 2'-O-sustituted nucleosides] and one or more regions of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleotides having internucleoside linkages selected from the group consisting of phosphodiester, phosphotriester, phosphorothioate and phosphoramidate linkages, wherein each of said POPS blocks is flanked by a region of 2'-O-substituted ribonucleosides.